

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The Moineau stator as defined in Claim 19, wherein one of an exterior surface (6) of the tube (10) or an interior surface of the support housing (301) is coated with elastomer (302).

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) A Moineau stator, comprising:

a tube (10) having lobes (3) arranged in a configuration which is adapted to interact with a rotor, the tube (10) is thin-walled with walls (2) that are sufficiently thin as to be subjected to elastic deformation in response to interfacial seal forces imposed by interference with the rotor and is surrounded by a supporting structure (201) in the form of a support housing having walls able to resist pressure, torque, and axial loads experienced in its intended operating environment, discrete pressurized axial cavities (203) are positioned in an annulus (202) between the tube (10) and the support housing (201) and fluid passages (206) are provided to equalize pressure in the axial cavities (203) with pressure within the interior (5) of the tube (10) by allowing fluids from the interior (5) of the tube (10) to communicate with the axial cavities (203).

11-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) The Moineau stator as defined in Claim 10, wherein the support housing (301) has lobes arranged in a configuration adapted to interact with the lobes on the tube (10) to form said discrete pressurized axial cavities, thereby balancing pressure acting on the interior surface [(6)] (5) of the tube (10) with a substantially equal pressure acting on the exterior

surface (6) of the tube (10) such that the deformation of the tube (10) in response to pressure variations is limited.

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